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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco 2, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Oct. 8, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 5--- Grapes (Thompson Seedless, Ribiers, Muscats, Tokays) continue to hold top place as the week's Best Buy in fruits.

Watermelons have yielded to second place as a Fair Buy, along with cantaloups, miscellaneous melons (Persian, Honeydew, Cranshaw, Casaba), apples, and strawberries.

The news on cranberries is good this year. The first supplies are coming in from Massachusetts at prices considerably below last year. Wholesale prices this year are running around $4.50 to $4.75 per 25-pound box, compared with $7.50 to $8.00 last year. In fact, local prices are the lowest since 1942.

Lettuce and tomatoes head the list of Best Buys in vegetables, followed by onions, peppers, carrots, and potatoes.

Fair Buys include cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, and snap beans.

Artichokes and sweetpotatoes are still in the high priced bracket.

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San Francisco-Bay Area consumers probably will pay a little less for meat this week. With supplies more than ample for a slackened retail demand, meat prices have dropped $1.00 to $3.00 from last week in the San Francisco wholesale market. Steer and heifer beef carcasses are $2.00 to $3.00 lower, Commercial cow beef is down $2.00, and Utility cow beef has dropped $1.00 per hundredweight. Veal and calf supplies were fairly well balanced with demand and have held unchanged in price, while liberal supplies of spring lamb have dropped $1.00 per hundredweight on carcasses. Ewe mutton has held unchanged. Fresh pork cuts, as well as cured cuts (smoked ham and slab bacon), and refined lard packed in 1-pound cartons have dropped $1.00 to $2.00 per hundred pounds.

With demand on a wait-and-see basis, local butter prices followed the pattern of Eastern market prices, dropping 5 cents on Grade AA(93 Score) and 6 cents on Grade A(92 Score). Grade B(90 Score) held unchanged at 64 cents per pound. Grade AA(93 Score) is quoted in the wholesale market at 69 cents per pound, and Grade A(92 Score) at 68 cents. Supplies are fairly liberal. For the week ended September 30, production in the west increased one percent but was still 13 percent below last year for the corresponding week.

Top quality eggs continue in good demand, but there is little demand for more liberal supplies of Grade "B" eggs. Grade "A" Small eggs are in lighter supply and up 2 cents per dozen at 45 to 45½ cents, while Grade "B" Large eggs are down 3 cents at 49 to 49½ cents per dozen. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted at 67 to 67½ cents per dozen, and Grade "A" Mediums at 62 to 62½¢.

In the San Francisco wholesale poultry market, all young chickens are selling 2 to 3 cents below last week's prices. Leghorn hens are also down 1 to 2 cents per pound, while dressed tom turkeys are 7 to 8 cents lower. Colored hens are an exception and up 1-cent. Demand is only moderate for liberal supplies of all classes except roasters and colored fowl.

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